

Borough of Malmesbury

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1947

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

(a) **Medical Officer of Health—**

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.

(b) **Borough Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer—**

E. H. HOLROYD, Cert. R.S.I., Meat and Food Inspector Cert.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947. This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 170/47 dated 31st December, 1947.

A report by Mr. E. H. Holroyd is included, showing in detail the excellent progress he has made in Public Health measures since his appointment.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	202
Population (1947)	.....	.....	2,581
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947 according to Rate Book)	.....	.....	817
Rateable Value	.....	.....	£12,814
Sum represented by penny rate	.....	.....	£51-2-3

Vital Statistics for 1947.

		Total	M	F	Rate	Cf. E & W
Live Births	.....	28	14	14		
Legitimate	.....	27	13	14		
Illegitimate	.....	1	1	0		
Birth Rate (per 1000 population)					10.84	20.5
Still Births	.....	4	3	1		
Rate (per 1000 total population)					1.5	.50

Deaths	.....	34	15	19		
Rate (per 1000 population)	.....				13.17	12.0
Deaths from Puerperal Causes						
Puerperal Sepsis	.....	0	0	0		
Other Maternal Causes	.....	0	0	0		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year						
All Infants per 1000 live births		0	0	0		
Legitimate Infants per 1000						
legitimate live births	.....	0	0	0		
Illegitimate Infants per 1000						
illegitimate live births	.....	0	0	0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	3	1	2		
„ Measles (all ages)	.....	0	0	0		
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)		0	0	0		
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		0	0	0		
„ Influenza	.....	0	0	0		
„ Respiratory Diseases						
(21, 22, 23)	.....	3	1	2		
„ Heart Diseases & Blood						
Vessels (18, 19, 20)	.....	18	6	12		

Both the birth rate and the death rate are lower than in 1946 when they were 15.6 and 16.8 respectively.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring in the Borough during the year 1947.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	..... 0	0
Diphtheria	..... 0	0
Whooping Cough	..... 18	0
Measles	..... 64	0
Poliomyelitis	..... 1	1
Typhoid Fever	..... 0	0
Pneumonia	..... 0	0
Dysentery	..... 0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	..... 0	0
Erysipelas	..... 0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..... 0	0

The solitary case of Poliomyelitis notified was subsequently confirmed. No secondary cases occurred.

Deaths from all causes.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and parat. fevers	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0	0
Scarlet fever	0	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of resp. sys.	1	0	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Ac. polio-meyl. and polio-enceph.	0	0	0
Ac. inf. enceph.	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. cav. & œsoph. (M) uterus (F)	0	0	0
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
Cancer of breast	0	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	1	2	3
Diabetes	0	0	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	1	2	3
Heart disease	2	9	11
Other dis. of circ. system	3	1	4
Bronchitis	0	2	2
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Other resp. dis.	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	0	1
Diarrhœa under 2 years	0	0	0
Appendicitis	0	0	0
Other digve. dis.	1	0	1
Nephritis	2	1	3
Puer. and post. abort. sepsis.	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	0	0	0
Prem. birth	0	0	0
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	0	0	0
Suicide	0	0	0
Road traffic acc.	0	0	0
Other violent causes	0	0	0
All other causes	2	0	2
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Total	15	19	34
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Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F
0								
1								
5								
15		1						
25	1							
35	1				1			
45	1							
55								
65								
and upwards								
Totals	3	1			1			

There is a slight reduction in the number of T.B. cases compared with 1946, when six new cases were notified. There was one death from T.B. during the year under review.

Water Supplies.

The Borough obtains water supplies from two sources, namely, from a borehole 153 feet in depth at Park Road, and from three springs feeding a shallow well at Holloway. The water is pumped by a centrifugal pump to a water tower of 55,000 gallons capacity, whence it reaches the consumers by gravity. A bulk supply is given to the adjoining Rural District.

The average daily quantity of water pumped for use in the Borough is 90,000 gallons, representing a consumption of 35 gallons per head of population per day. In addition, the Rural District took an average of 18,000 gallons per day. The two sources have given a satisfactory supply, as regards both quantity and quality, and no shortage was experienced during the dry spell in August.

The only form of treatment the water receives is chlorination by the drip feed method, and this is regularly carried out at both sources of supply.

Bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water are regularly made, a total of ten samples being taken during the year. As a precautionary measure, owing to its close proximity to the river, it has been decided to reline the top section of the borehole at Park Road.

The Council's Consulting Engineers are proceeding with a scheme for the improvement of the water supplies. A continuous pumping test over a period of 14 days at the Park Road borehole has shown that there is ample water there for the requirements of both the Borough and the Rural District.

The results of bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water from the two sources of supply taken on the 30th December, 1947, are as under :

PARK ROAD SOURCE :

Physical characters : excellent.

CHEMICAL :

			Parts per 100,000
Reaction	.....	Alkaline p.h.	7.1
Saline and free ammonia	.....	.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	.....	.....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 deg. c	.....	.....	0.002
Chlorides	.....	.....	1.5
Nitrogen as nitrates	.....	.....	0.75
Total hardness	.....	.....	30.2
(a) Temporary	.....	.....	23.4
(b) Permanent	.....	.....	6.8
Poisonous metals	.....	.....	Nil
Nitrites	.....	.....	Nil
Microscopical examination of sediment	.....	.....	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL :

Total colonies growing at 37 deg. c in 48 hours : 1 per 1 c.c. of water. Number of coli-aerogenes at 37 deg. c : Nil per 100 c.c. of water. Number of faecal types of B coli at 44 deg. c : Nil per 100 c.c. of water.

OPINION :

Neither chemical analysis nor bacteriological examination show any evidences of harmful pollution.

Date : 2nd January, 1948.

HOLLOWAY SOURCE :

Physical characters : excellent.

CHEMICAL :

		Parts per 100,000
Reaction	..... Alkaline p.h.	7.1
Saline or free ammonia	.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	.....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	.....	Nil
Chlorides	.....	1.4
Nitrogen as nitrates	.....	0.25
Total hardness	.....	28.3
(a) Temporary	.....	21.7
(b) Permanent	.....	6.6
Poisonous metals	.....	Nil
Nitrites	.....	Nil
Microscopical examination of sediment	.....	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL :

Total colonies growing at 37 deg. c in 48 hours: 1 per 1 c.c. of water. Number of coli-aerogenes at 37 deg. c : Nil per 100 c.c. of water. Number of faecal types of B coli at 44 deg. c : Nil per 100 c.c. of water.

OPINION :

Neither chemical analysis nor bacteriological examination show any evidences of harmful pollution.

Date : 2nd January, 1948.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole of the Borough is served by an obsolete system of sewers, which discharge, through small catchpits, into the river. There are no works for the treatment and disposal of sewage, and pollution of the river Avon occurs. The Council have appointed Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for the provision of treatment and disposal works, and for the relaying of most of the sewers.

Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	M-c Line No.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted	M-c Line No.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	11	18	—	—	1
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	14	16	—	—	2
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	1	3	—	—	3
Total		26	37	—	—	

2. Cases in which **defects** were found.

Particulars	M-c Line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which prosecutions were		M-c Line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector by H.M. Inspector	instituted		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	7	6	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	1	1	—	—	—	5
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	1	1	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	5	3	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	1	—	—	—	11
Total		15	12	—	—	—	

School Children.

In addition to the usual re-inspection, 270 children in the Routine Age-groups were examined during the year under review, of these, 84 (31.11%) were found to be of good nutrition, 149 (55.19%) of normal or fair nutrition, and 37 (13.70%) were found to be of poor nutrition.

School Closure during 1947.

— Nil. —

Milk in Schools Scheme.

Average attendance, October, 1947	701
No. of $\frac{1}{3}$ rd pints supplied on a day in October 1947, on the basis of $\frac{1}{3}$ rd per pt. per child	442 (63.1%)
Pasteurised milk supplied to	442

By the end of 1947, every school had a supply of fresh milk daily, provided free of cost, but limited for the present to one third pint per child.

School milk supplies are sampled by the County Sanitary Inspector four times a year, and endeavours are made by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake clinical examinations of the accredited and non-designated herds four times annually. This is not always possible, however, owing to shortage of staff.

School Meals Service.

No. of children receiving mid-day meals at school during October, 1947:

Full or part payment—416. Free—95.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following number of children have completed a full course of immunisation up to 31st December, 1947:

Ages 1 to 4—129 (53.9%). Ages 5 to 14—361 (97.04%)

Total—490 (80.1%).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ended 31st December, 1947.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Malmesbury.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report for the eleven months ended the 31st December, 1947.

On taking up my appointment on the 1st February, I found that there were considerable arrears of work waiting for me, and I have not found it possible to do all that should have been done. My other duties, including the work in the office, takes up a large proportion of my working hours, and I have, therefore, to apportion all my duties as best I can. I feel, however, that some progress in bringing up to date the work of the Public Health Department has been made, and I hope to maintain that progress.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

E. H. HOLROYD,

Sanitary Inspector.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse collection in the Borough is carried out, under contract by the Malmesbury Rural District Council, and collections are made twice weekly from each house in the Borough.

The refuse is tipped at a site two miles out, and periodic treatment for rats and other pests is carried out.

Paper and cardboard is salvaged, and an average of two tons per month is sent away.

The Council have recently decided not to renew the contract with the Rural District Council when it expires, but to undertake collections with their own resources, and an order has been placed for a seven cubic yard refuse collection vehicle for delivery during 1948.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK.

There is one milk producer and four milk retailers in the Borough. The dairies of two of the retailers are situated outside the Borough. There are no pasteurisation plants and no producers of T.T. or Accredited milk in the Borough.

There were six inspections made during the year under Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and two notices for limewashing were served.

BAKEHOUSES.

There is one bakehouse in the area, and a considerable amount of work has been carried out during the year to bring the building up to the standard required under the Food and Drugs Act. Four inspections were made, and one notice was served. A great deal of the bread distributed is baked outside the area.

MEAT.

There is no slaughtering within the Borough, the meat being brought to a distributing depot from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Chippenham, and from this depot it is allocated to the five butchers in the town. Whilst there has been an improvement in the method of transport of the meat, such as the provision of bins for offal, there is room for still further improvement, and representations are continually being made to the Ministry of Food by the Medical Officer of Health in this direction.

The following tables give the quantity of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :

Disease	Weight	Meat
Brine taint	30 lbs.	Beef
Contaminated by rats	40 lbs.	Lamb
Bone taint	118 lbs.	Beef
Emaciation	4 lbs.	Lamb
Abscesses	28 lbs.	Beef
Decomposition	70 lbs.	Sheeps mesenteries
Distoma hepaticum	15 lbs.	Bovine Liver
Blown tins	6 lbs.	Corned Beef

Total weight—311 lbs.

Other foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption are as under :

Foodstuff	Weight
Tinned sausage	5 lbs.
„ beans	6 lbs.
„ pudding	1 lb.
„ milk	37 lbs.
„ marmalade	6 lbs.
„ peas	16 lbs.
„ fruit	20 lbs.
„ fish	9 lbs.
„ soup	8 lbs.
„ meat	11 lbs.

Tinned tomatoes	.....	4 lbs.
„ carrots	.....	49 lbs.
Meat paste	.....	1 lb.
Fresh tomatoes	.....	6 lbs.
Wet and dried fish	.....	393 lbs.
Chocolate	.....	7 lbs.
Rolled oats	.....	170 lbs.
Jam	.....	1 lb.
Margarine	.....	26 lbs.
Bacon	.....	33 lbs.
Flour	.....	132 lbs.

Total weight—941 lbs.

SHOPS.

A start was made this year on a regular routine inspection of food shops under Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act. This is the first time that any such inspections have been made in the Borough, and a number of minor breaches of the Act were brought to light, but on the whole the provisions of Section 13 were being observed reasonably satisfactorily. The Medical Officer of Health proposes to organise a drive, with the help of the Chamber of Commerce, to try and obtain the co-operation of the shopkeepers and their staffs in maintaining a high standard of hygiene in the preparation, handling and distribution of food.

There are two fried fish shops in the Borough, and 28 inspections were made during the year, ensuring that a good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

The five butchers' shops in the Borough are all registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act for the manufacture and sale of sausages, and all the premises are in a satisfactory condition.

ICE CREAM.

There are four shops selling ice cream, two of which are registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act for manufacture, storage and sale, and the other two registered for the storage and sale only. Of the latter two, one deals in a pre-wrapped product supplied by a well known firm, and the other receives daily supplies from Chippenham.

A progressive step forward in the light of more rigid control of ice cream was brought about by the coming into force on the 1st May of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, which make compulsory the heat treatment of ice cream mixes, and their rapid cooling after heating. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining the necessary apparatus by ice cream vendors, certain of the Regulations were not brought into full operation.

Whilst these Regulations will ensure a higher degree of safety, the risk of contaminated ice cream being sold is still great, requiring the closest watching by officials, and the maintenance of a high standard of hygiene, both general and personal, by manufacturers and their staffs. At the moment, the taking of samples presents some problems, owing to the difficulty in getting them to the Laboratory at Salisbury without delay but it is hoped to overcome this shortly.

Housing.

As with most Local Authorities, the Council are faced with a big demand for housing accommodation, there being 161 applicants on the waiting list for houses. Twenty traditional houses are now being completed, and a scheme for a further 12 is awaiting the consent of the Ministry of Health. In addition, a special allocation of 26 permanent aluminium bungalows has been made for industrial workers, and these will be let to the employees of two local firms.

As an estimate, from 15% to 20% of the houses in the Borough are sub-standard, and will need to be dealt with under the Housing Act, when Local Authorities are able once more to tackle their housing problems under the provisions of this Act.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1947.

1. Unfit dwelling-houses—Inspection.

(1) a—Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	36
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b—Number of inspections made for the purpose	63
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(2) a—Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	17
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b—Number of inspections made for the purpose	41
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
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(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	15
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2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	15
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Number of dwelling-houses demolished in consequence of action by the Local Authority	NIL
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3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	NIL
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
a—	By Owners	NIL
b—	By Local Authority in default of Owners	NIL
B.	Proceedings under the Public Health Act	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
a—	By Owners	2
b—	By Local Authority in default of Owners	NIL
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	NIL
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	NIL
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	NIL
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	NIL
4.	Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding.	
(a) 1	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	9
2	Number of families dwelling therein	16
3	Number of persons dwelling therein	68
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	21
(c) 1	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	12
2	Number of persons concerned in such cases	54
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	NIL

Disinfestation and Disinfection.

During the year only one case of premises requiring disinfestation occurred. There was one room mildly infested with fleas.

Two houses were disinfected as a result of notifiable cases of infectious disease.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Visits and inspections made during 1947 :

Investigation of complaints	.....	54
Infectious disease enquiries	.....	4
Markets	.....	32
Bakehouses	.....	4
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	.....	6
Fish shops	.....	32
Food shops	.....	44
Shops under the Shops Act	.....	33
Factories	.....	41
Applicants for Council houses	.....	78
Re-visits—Public Health Act	.....	39
„ —Housing Acts	.....	24
Miscellaneous	.....	31
Total		<hr/> 422 <hr/>

Statement of Nuisances recorded and abated during 1947.

Nature of Complaint	No. during year	No. abated	No. outstanding
Choked drains	8	8	—
Defective drains	10	10	—
Defective and dirty water closets	8	7	1
Defective flushing cisterns	3	3	—
Defective roofs	34	30	4
Defective eaves, gutters & rainwater pipes	5	5	—
Defective ceilings	8	8	—
Defective walls	6	5	1
Defective floors	8	6	2
Defective firegrates	10	9	1
Defective windows	7	6	1
Defective yard paving	2	1	1
Damp walls	10	10	—
Dirty rooms	13	13	—
Offensive accumulations	1	1	—
Miscellaneous	19	14	5
Totals	<hr/> 152	<hr/> 136	<hr/> 16 <hr/>